

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 23 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-7, 9-22, and 24-38 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 23 (now cancelled), respectively. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner's observation regarding the certified copy(ies) of the priority document(s) and/or their translations is noted. The required documents will be submitted in due course.

The art rejections are believed overcome in view of the above amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Serial No. 10/593,297

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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